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our agricultural experiment stations. Doubtless many of them, if measured by the amount of reading they receive, are hardly worth the paper they are written upon. But often among them appears a paper, and not uncommonly one more popular than scientific, which fills a certain need and therefore finds a wide use.

Before the reviewer is a pamphlet entitled "The Economic Value of Bird Life," by Richard H. Sullivan and published by the Kansas State Agricultural College. Although largely a compilation of facts taken from other authors, yet we believe it meets a need and for this reason will find wide use.

The interest shown by the average farmer as regards a knowledge of the food habits of the common birds is seldom realized. The exhibit which has probably attracted the most interest and attention on the Agricultural Train here in California the last two years, has been one attempting to show the relation of native birds and mammals to agriculture. And in spite of the excellent work on California birds published by the U. S. Biological Survey, there has been a constant demand for a knowledge of the food habits of the common birds and especially for a handbook giving the identification and food habits of the common birds.

"The Economic Value of Bird Life" follows the usual order of papers of its kind, first dealing with bird life as checks on injurious insects and animals, and spending a whole chapter on the importance of insect pests on account of their enormous reproductive power, their remarkable food requirement, and the great economic losses caused by their depredations. The chapter on "Decimation of Bird Life and Its Consequences" places before the reader the stock examples of the increase of insect pests concomitant with a wholesale destruction of their bird enemies. A few local notes regarding the food habits of certain common birds of the state emphasizes the limitations of the paper and brings to the mind of the reviewer the importance of intensive study of the food habits of birds under local conditions; for the well known variation of the kind of food according to the available supply demands this. The evidence furnished by the writer appears to be almost too overwhelmingly in favor of the birds. An impartial presentation of facts, furnishing the reader with the bad points as well as the good, often gains the confidence of a man who otherwise might be antagonized by the one-sided view.

Although the paper in hand cannot be considered a valuable contribution to scientific literature, yet it doubtless fills a popular need and so proves its worth. And even though it

looks very diminutive and unimportant beside the elaborate work issued by the State of Massachusetts, Forbush's "Useful Birds and Their Protection", yet other states can well profit by the spirit of "The Economic Value of Bird Life", and by issuing even such an unassuming publication, fill an important need. —H. C. BRYANT.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

FEBRUARY.—The February meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday evening, February 29, 1912, in the office of H. J. Lande, 246 Wilcox Bldg., Los Angeles, with President Morcom in the chair and the following members present: Appleton, Chambers, John Lewis Childs, Dawson, Daggett, Gray, Hanna, Hubbs, Howard, Howell, Huey, Antonin Jay, Lamb, Miller, Robertson, Rich, Tracy, Willett, and Law.

The minutes of the Southern Division for January were read and approved and the minutes of the Northern Division for February were read.

On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Willett, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership, Messrs. Chester Stock, Harry S. Hathaway, and Clarence H. Kennedy, nominated at previous meeting.

Applications were presented as follows: Wm. R. Flint, Throop Polytechnic Inst., Pasadena, Cal., proposed by A. B. Howell; Anna Head, 2730 Belrose Ave., Berkeley, Cal., proposed by J. Grinnell; Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers, 306 Ave. 66, Los Angeles, Cal., proposed by W. L. Dawson; Geo. E. Stone, Vet. Sci. Bldg., U. of C., Berkeley, Cal., proposed by W. P. Taylor; Margaret W. Wythe, 4231 Terrace St., Oakland, Cal., proposed by H. C. Bryant.

On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Howard, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present confirming nominations made by the officers of both Divisions, for Editor, J. Grinnell, for Business Managers, J. Eugene Law and W. Lee Chambers.

On motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Dr. Rich, and duly carried, the Southern Division approved the plan of the Business Managers to construct a small building at a minimum cost of approximately \$30.00 on the rear of the property of W. Lee Chambers, for storage of the large accumulation of back

numbers of THE CONDOR, Avifauna, cuts and so forth. W. Lee Chambers agreeing to repay to the Club the amount it invests in the building, at such time as the Club shall no longer have use for the room.

Mr. Dawson had with him a very handsome selection of late photographs of birds showing wonderful success; also several of the original paintings by Allan Brooks which will be put in the Edition de Luxe of "The Birds of California". Adjourned.—J. E. LAW, *Secretary*.

MARCH—The March meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on Thursday evening, March 28, 1912, in the office of H. J. Lelande, 246 Wilcox Building, Los Angeles, with President Morcom in the chair and the following members present: Messrs. Blaine, Chambers, Grey, O. W. Howard, Hubbs, Antonin Jay, Judson, Knickerbocker, Lamb, Lelande, Linton, Miller, Rich, Robertson, Willett, Zahn, Law; and as visitors, Mr. George Wood of Hollywood and Mr. McClusky of the new Museum.

The minutes of the Southern Division for February were read and approved and the minutes of the Northern Division for February were read.

On motion by Mr. Willett, seconded by Mr. Howard, and duly carried, the Secretary was instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of those present electing to active membership, Mesdames Head, Meyers, and Wythe, and Messrs. Flint and Stone, nominated at previous meeting.

Application was presented from Mr. James Buckland of the Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Ave., London, Eng., proposed by Mr. W. Lee Chambers.

The committee appointed to make recommendations in regard to game laws for southern California made the following recommendations which, on motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Chambers and duly carried, were adopted and ordered filed:

	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
Valley Quail	Oct. 15-Nov. 15	20 per day
Mountain Quail	Sept. 1-Dec. 1	10 " "
Mourning Dove	Sept. 15-Oct. 15	20 " "
Band-tailed Pigeon	Nov. 1-Mar. 1	20 " "
All Ducks	Oct. 15-Feb. 15	20 " "
Wilson Snipe	Nov. 15-Apr. 15	20 " "
Killdeer	Oct. 15-Feb. 15	20 " "
Rail	Nov. 1-Dec. 1	15 " "

Closed season for at least 2 years and longer if possible—Ibis, Avocet, Stilt, Godwit, Yellow-legs, Willet, Curlew, Black-bellied Plover, Mountain Plover.

Be excluded from game birds and on pro-

tected list—All other Waders, including Sandpipers, Phalaropes, Dowitcher, Knot, Sanderling, Tattler, Semipalmated and Snowy Plover, Surf-bird, Turnstones, and Oyster-catchers.

Pump guns for all game birds be prohibited after January 1, 1915.

On motion by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Miller, the above committee was continued and instructed to make a list of the birds commonly considered harmful, but in reality beneficial, and make an outlined plan looking toward distributing and posting such facts where they will come to the attention of gunners.

A few brief notes from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, by Mr. H. J. Rust, were read by the Secretary. Adjourned.—J. E. LAW, *Secretary*.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

MARCH—The monthly meeting of the Northern Division was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, on Saturday evening, March 16. President Coggins was in the chair, and the following members present: Miss Atsatt and Miss Heald, and Messrs. Brown, Boyce, Camp, Carriger, Gifford, Grinnell, Ritter, Storer, Taylor, and Swarth. Professor H. B. Torrey and Mr. A. C. Chandler were visitors. The paper of the evening, "The Relation Between Size of Wings and Extent of Flight in Birds," by Professor W. E. Ritter, was taken up first, and the reading of the paper, with the subsequent discussion, occupied most of the session.

After a short intermission the routine business before the meeting was taken up. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved, followed by the Southern Division February minutes. The following, whose names were presented last month, were elected to membership: Miss Anna Head, Miss Margaret W. Wythe, George E. Stone, Frank H. Renick, Lloyd Servis, and Frank M. Phelps.

New names were presented as follows: Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers, by W. L. Dawson; Wm. R. Flint, by A. B. Howell; James Buckland, by W. Lee Chambers.

Mr. Taylor, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, gave a brief summary of the work accomplished, and an outline of the plans of future work.

Mr. Storer suggested for the consideration of the Club a plan for the acquisition and care of a series of photographic slides, dealing with ornithological subjects, to be held for the use of Club members. The chair appointed Mr. Storer a committee of one to look into the matter, and ascertain the practicability of the idea. Adjourned.—H. S. SWARTH, *Secretary*.